



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS.

*Canberra A.C.T.*

PLEASE QUOTE THIS NUMBER IN REPLY.

9th July, 1940.

FREM/MP.

CHANGES IN UNEMPLOYMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Unemployment in mid-April compared with mid-March, 1940.

(Source: The Statist, May 11, 1940)

The total number of registered workers unemployed in April was 972,695, this representing a drop of 13 per cent. from the March figure, to a level lower than any previously recorded(a). Though the fall in the number of those "temporarily stopped" was proportionately higher, at 17.5 per cent., only 19,000 were affected under this heading, compared with a reduction in the number of those wholly unemployed by over 125,000, three-quarters of whom were men. Casual unemployment fell by 8 per cent. to 42,486, in spite of slight increases in the figures here recorded for boys and women, which offered the only contrast last month to the general tendency.

Compared with a year previously, total unemployment was down by 671,000, of which over 500,000 came under the wholly unemployed category and 159,000 under that of temporarily stopped, the latter figure representing a fall of 62 per cent. on the year.

Numbers Unemployed on Registers at April 15, 1940.

Particulars	Persons normally in regular employment		Persons normally in casual employment	Total
	Wholly unemployed	Temporarily stopped		
Men ..	538,570	54,786	40,590	633,946
Boys ..	21,528	1,092	103	22,723
Women ..	243,480	32,748	1,786	278,014
Girls ..	36,449	1,556	7	38,012
<u>Total:</u>	<u>840,027</u>	<u>90,182</u>	<u>42,486</u>	<u>972,695</u>

From the following table, showing the changes in the numbers of insured persons unemployed in April, compared with the previous month, in the industries chiefly affected, it is evident that seasonal influences have been a prominent factor in recent weeks. Nevertheless, continued reduction in unemployment in the metal and engineering industries again points to the need for treating current labour movements less as a subject for congratulation than as a warning of impending labour shortage. According to an official statement issued this week, the Ministry of Labour has at length arrived at the conclusion that "it is of great importance that the output of semi-skilled men for engineering occupations from the Government training centres should be maintained and increased." The Ministry is therefore preparing to reduce the length of training courses but the country apparently has still to wait for an extension of the training facilities available, which, as the Minister of Labour has himself made clear, can meet only a fraction of the growing demand, with an approximate out-turn of 40,000 trainees a year on the existing basis of a six-months course.

(a) The total number unemployed in June was 114,000 less than that in May, and 582,000 less than the total unemployed in June, 1939. The greatest improvement was shown in the coal mining, agricultural and cotton industries.

Comparison with March 11, 1940.

<u>Industry</u>		<u>Decrease (-).</u>
Building ..	..	- 31,965
Distributive trades ..	..	- 19,422
Agriculture, horticulture, etc. ..	..	- 16,717
Hotel, boarding house, etc., service ..	..	- 9,323
Public works contracting ..	..	- 7,895
Coal mining ..	..	- 6,294
Local government service ..	..	- 5,006
Entertainments, sport, etc. ..	..	- 3,864
Metal goods manufacture ..	..	- 3,520
Furniture making ..	..	- 3,455
Dock, harbour, etc., service ..	..	- 2,823
Engineering, etc. ..	..	- 2,786
Printing and bookbinding ..	..	- 2,569
Road transport ..	..	- 2,492
Brick and tile making ..	..	- 2,362
Dressmaking and millinery ..	..	- 2,361
Tailoring ..	..	- 2,176